AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-33.   Canceled.

34.   (Currently Amended) Method of handling messages in a mobile communications system, said messages being single packet messages managed via a dedicated message controller available through a core network of said mobile communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

transferring ~~a message~~one of said messages and first hardware identification data that uniquely identifies an intended terminating receiver of ~~the~~said one message from an application node to an application node interworking unit of ~~a~~said dedicated message controller, where said application node interworking unit connects application nodes that are not associated with a subscriber of said mobile communication system to said dedicated message controller;

interacting between the dedicated message controller and a location updated subscriber database;

further managing of the message based on the first hardware identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

35.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, comprising the further step of:

comparing the first hardware identification data and hardware identification data stored in the location updated subscriber database, whereby the step of further managing being based on the outcome of the step of comparing.

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36. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 34, wherein the step of interacting

in turn comprises the steps of:

sending the first hardware identification data from the message controller to the

location updated subscriber database;

whereby the first hardware identification data is used in the location updated

subscriber database to retrieve an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling

hardware defined by the hardware identification data; and

returning the address of the switching or support node, if any, from the location

updated subscriber database to the dedicated message controller;

whereby the step of further managing comprises initiating of a transmission of ~~the~~

said one message to the address of the switching or support node.

37. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 36, wherein the step of further

managing further comprises, if no address of a switching or support node presently handling

hardware defined by the hardware identification data is retrieved in the location updated subscriber

database, storing of ~~the~~ said one message and resuming the interacting step with the location

updated subscriber database after a delay time.

38. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 34, comprising the further step of

transferring mobile subscriber identification data associated with ~~the~~ said one message from the

application node to the dedicated message controller.

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39.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 38, wherein the mobile subscriber identification data is a mobile subscriber ISDN number.

40.   (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 38, wherein the step of interacting in turn comprises the steps of:

sending the mobile subscriber identification data from the dedicated message controller to the location updated subscriber database;

retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling a mobile subscriber defined by the mobile subscriber identification data and second hardware identification data uniquely identifying hardware equipment that, according to the location updated subscriber database, is associated with the mobile subscriber; and

returning the address of the switching or support node and the second hardware identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the dedicated message controller.

41.   (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 40, further comprising:

comparing the first and second hardware identification data,

wherein the step of further managing comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are equivalent, an initiating of a transmission of the said one message to the address of the switching or support node.

42.   (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 41, wherein the step of further managing further comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent,

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storing of ~~the~~ said one message and resuming the interacting step with the location updated

subscriber database after a delay time.

43.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 41, wherein the step of further

managing further comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent,

sending of an error message to the application node .

44.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, wherein the first and second

hardware identification data comprises at least one of subscriber identification module identification

data and mobile equipment identification data.

45.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 44, comprising the further step of

returning at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment

identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller.

46.   (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 34, wherein ~~the~~ said one message

is a short message service - SMS - message and the dedicated message controller is a SMS

controller.

47.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, wherein the location updated

subscriber database is home location register.

48.   (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 36, wherein the switching or support node is a mobile switching centre.

49.   (Currently Amended) Message controller of a mobile communications system, comprising:

electronic circuitry arranged to manage single packet messages via a core network of said mobile communication system;

a first receiver for a message one of said messages from an application node that is not associated with a subscriber of said mobile communication system and first hardware identification data that uniquely identifies an intended terminating receiver of the message; and

electronic circuitry arranged to interact with a location updated subscriber database and further manage the message based on the first hardware identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

50.   (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the electronic circuitry is arranged to manage the said one message based on the outcome of a comparison between the first hardware identification data and hardware identification data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

51.   (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the electronic circuitry includes:

a transmitter for sending the first hardware identification data to the location updated subscriber database;

a second receiver for an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently

handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the location updated subscriber

database;

wherein the electronic circuitry is arranged to initiate a transmission of ~~the~~ said one

message to the address of the switching or support node.

52.   (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 51, wherein the

electronic circuitry is arranged, if no address of a switching or support node presently handling

hardware defined by the hardware identification data is provided by the location updated subscriber

database, to store ~~the~~ said one message and resume the interaction with the location updated

subscriber database after a delay time.

53.   (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the first

receiver is arranged for further receiving mobile subscriber identification data.

54.   (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 53, wherein the

mobile subscriber identification data is a mobile subscriber ISDN number.

55.   (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 53, wherein the

electronic circuitry comprises:

a transmitter for sending the mobile subscriber identification data to the location

updated subscriber database; and

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a second receiver for an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently

handling a mobile subscriber defined by the mobile subscriber identification data and second

hardware identification data uniquely identifying hardware equipment that, according to the

location updated subscriber database, is associated with the mobile subscriber from the location

updated subscriber database.

56.   (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 55, wherein the

electronic circuitry is arranged to:

compare the first and second hardware identification data;

initiate a transmission of the said one message to the address of the switching or

support node   if the output of the comparison indicates that the first and second hardware

identification data are equivalent.

57.   (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 56, wherein the

electronic circuitry is arranged to store the said one message and resume interaction with the

location updated subscriber database after a delay time if the output of the comparison indicates that

the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent.

58.   (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 56, wherein the the

electronic circuitry is arranged to send an error message to an originating node of the said one

message if the output of the comparison indicates that the first and second hardware identification

data are non-equivalent.

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59.   (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the first

and second hardware identification data comprises at least one of subscriber identification module

identification data and mobile equipment identification data.

60.   (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 59, wherein the

second receiver is arranged to receive at least one of subscriber identification module identification

data and mobile equipment identification data from the location updated subscriber database.

61.   (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein ~~the~~ said

one message is a short message service - SMS - message and the message controller is a SMS

controller.

62-64. Canceled.

65.   (Currently Amended) Mobile communications system, comprising at least one

message controller available through a core network of said mobile communication system, said

message controller in turn comprising:

electronic circuitry arranged to manage single packet text messages via said core

network;

first receiver for ~~a message~~receiving one of said messages from an application node

that is not being associated with a subscriber of said mobile communication system and ~~associated~~

first hardware identification data that uniquely identifies an intended terminating receiver of the

message; and

means for interacting with a location updated subscriber database; and

means for further managing of the message based on the first hardware identification

data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

66.   (Currently Amended) Mobile communications system according to claim 65,

further comprising at least one communications system node in turn comprising:

storage for address and hardware identification data associated with mobile

subscribers;

means for updating content of the storage;

receiver for hardware identification data associated with an intended terminating

receiver of asaid one message from a message controller;

means for retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently

handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the storage; and

sender for sending the address of the switching or support node presently handling

hardware defined by the hardware identification data to the message controller.

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